

EDUC 648

WIKI READING MATERIAL

7 Things Wiki

1. What is a wiki? What are the characteristics of a wiki?

- A wiki is a Web 2.0 application.
- What is Web 2.0? What was Web 1.0?
- Characteristics of Web 2.0: collaborative, participatory, democratic, creative, interactive, engaging, collaborative, communicative, FREE.
- A wiki is a webpage...albeit an **INTERACTIVE** one.
- Asynchronous communication/interaction
- Searchable
- Attach documents, images, videos, hyperlinks
- They are safe (Morgan & Smith article).

2. What are the downsides?

- Developing, organizing, creating=TIME
- “Wikis are well suited to reflecting current thoughts but perhaps not as effective in obtaining unbiased perspectives on rapidly evolving topics or issues.”
Do you agree?

3. What are the implications for teaching and learning?

- Because wikis grow and evolve as a direct result of people adding material to the site, they can **address a variety of pedagogical needs**—student involvement, group activities, and so on. Since wikis reside on the Internet, students can access and participate from any location, provided they have Internet access. From an instructional technology perspective, wikis allow faculty and students to engage in collaborative activities that might not be possible in a classroom.
- “inherent simplicity”
- A wiki’s versioning capability can show the evolution of thought processes as students interact with the site and its contents.
- These collaborative projects help promote “pride of authorship” and ownership.

Morgan Wiki

1. How do wikis differ from blogs?

- Wikis are interactive and blogs are not.

2. What positives are noted from the experiment using wikis?

- “The track changes feature of the wiki made the writing process more visible to the students and teacher, and in that way the writing process became emphasized and revision consisted of a continual process....” (p. 81)
- “The ease of collaboration strengthened students’ abilities to engage with text as writers and readers.” (p. 81)
- “The environment provided immediate, contextualized feedback, thus strengthening the relations among audience, purpose, and structure of the writing.” (p. 81)
- “Easy access to the wiki allowed students to participate more frequently and freely.” (p. 81)
- When using the wiki as a collaborative writing community the students are more engaged with the writing process.” (p. 82)

Engstrom Wikis

1. Why did they pick a wiki for the project?

- “The central goal of the Under Control project was to engage students in inquiry-based learning, whereby they would collaboratively research and analyze divergent points of view around ...issues and then craft a policy statement for river management....a communication and knowledge building tool was needed that could serve this purpose with relative ease of use by teachers and students.” (p. 12)

TPACK: The wiki (collaboration) and bottom up design met the needs of the project.

“Shaped from within, not imposed from above” 9p. 14)

2. How are wikis organized?

By content rather than chronology---supports collaboration

3. What is the edit trail?

“A version control system, which creates a complete log of every change made to every wiki page. Thus if a student inadvertently deletes the content on a wiki page that content is saved as an edited version along with the user identifier, date and time stamp.” (p. 12).

4. Before they started, what two "things" about the students did they need to check?

- Did they have a signed AUP and did they have access outside of school

5. What instructional lessons did they learn?

- More technology training for teachers
- Modeling how to use the wiki for students/the practice of interacting with project participants on the wiki to support critical thinking and thinking from multiple perspectives.
- Access restrictions will be loosened earlier so that different groups can access the wikis of other groups

6. What technology lessons did they learn?

- Only one user can post on the wiki at a time
- Lack of access

Johnson Wikipedia

1. According to the author, why would we want to turn to Wikipedia instead of Encyclopedia Britannica?

- “Although it is difficult to give Wikipedia a blanket endorsement, it can be a valuable resource for students and staff alike.” (p. 26)
- It has a wider scope.
- It has [up-to-date articles](#) on timely topics.
- Controversial/undocumented information is noted as such
- It is just an encyclopedia...and should not be used as the one and only source. Furthermore, we need to teach our students strategies for evaluation Wikipedia.
- Kathy Schrock's page (IFL)

Assessing Wikipedia, Wiki-Style, on Its 10 Anniversary

How does Wikipedia compare to in regard to content and mistakes?

- 17 million entries in more than 250 languages—including 118,000 in Volapük. The Encyclopedia Britannica has 120,000, and only in English.

- “A 2005 study in the journal *Nature* found that in a sample of articles, there was an average of 2.92 mistakes per article for Britannica and 3.86 for Wikipedia. (Britannica objected to the *Nature* study, calling the methodology “fatally flawed.”)
- Wikipedia, however, has problems Britannica doesn’t. An error corrected in Britannica stays corrected; in Wikipedia, it may not. (By the same token, rapidly changing events can be covered in pace by Wikipedia.) Then there are the tastes of its editors. Popular culture looms large. The entry for the video game Halo, for example, is significantly longer than the one for the Protestant Reformation.

Are Wikis Worth the Time?

Pro

1. How are wikis a “wonderful representation of how our understanding of knowledge is changing?”
 - “Dave Weinberger refers to the “multi-subjectivity” of a Wikipedia article: Multiple viewpoints coming together to create a conversation. Notice it’s not to establish knowledge. The days of one truth, one perspective are coming to an end. We saw libraries as a place to consume knowledge. Wikipedia provides a place to contribute as well as consume.” (p. 6)
2. What do you think the author meant by stating that wikis support Friedman’s idea of the flat world or silos of information being replaced by horizontal connections?
 - We expect to contribute to the discussion.
 - “Wikipedia invites critical dialogue with the text in a way that Britannica never could.” (p. 7)
3. What point does the pro author concede?
 - Few would say Wikipedia could serve as a stand-alone source.

Con

1. What two main arguments are presented to refute the value of wikis?
 - Entries are anonymous
 - Content is constantly morphing

Technology and Young Children

- See PowerPoint